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SINESS DIRECTORY

ARION HOUSE.

W. THORNTON,
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

THOMAS MOORHEAD,

HOMAS M'CLURE,

Wolfe, Wolfe & Johnson.

CARSON & CRISWOLD

Select Poetry.

THE LITTLE BOY THAT DIED

[illegible]

Choice Miscellany.

MOTHER AND STEP-MOTHER.

CHAPTER XIII

[illegible] was reading when he [illegible] He was not [illegible] hardly looked up [illegible] showing his [illegible] satisfaction [illegible] about the weather [illegible] taking [illegible] Lady Irwin found the [illegible] becoming known, that when [illegible] her with arguments, persuasion, and [illegible] even with caresses, she yield[illegible] and, grateful for permission [illegible] on my terms, thinking delay [illegible] in the greatness of her unhoped [illegible]

[illegible] and it was an acknowledged [illegible] that Miss Birkby [illegible] Mr Irwin One or two our [illegible] intriguing mammas were highly [illegible] community at large, it was [illegible] natural and desirable arrange[illegible]

[illegible] with tears of pleasure, [illegible] show the love he bore him, [illegible] keeping his dearest earthly [illegible] displeased at Lady Ir[illegible] postponement of the marriage, [illegible] rum at the idea that his [illegible] duly appreciated, but [illegible] Catherine tranquilised him [illegible] be long angry at what [illegible] session of her who was so [illegible]

[illegible] intelligence threw her [illegible] She had a happy knack [illegible] what was going on before her [illegible] saw that Kitty and Frank [illegible] much, but as to anything [illegible] idea had never suggested [illegible] She wished them happy with [illegible] no reason why they [illegible] happy, since they had always been [illegible] of them

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[illegible] Lady Irwin, satisfied [illegible] Kitty is a [illegible] lucky fellow if [illegible] enjoyment of [illegible] Edward—an agreeable domestic animal, which it was convenient to have about the house [illegible] discover in this soft-voiced tender [illegible] the enemy whom she should most sedulously have guarded against, was a bitter aggravation of her [illegible]

Turn the subject which way she would, she could not discover no reasonable hope of averting the evil. Sir Edward had already given a quasi consent, she knew that, though generally compliant, he was occasionally capable of firmness; that his affection for his eldest son was strong, his sense of justice strict, and that he had always treated Kitty herself with peculiar tenderness. But none of these considerations shook her resolution to prevent the marriage, cost what it might. [illegible] the difficulties that lay in her [illegible] strengthened her determination, and [illegible] ingenuity.

[illegible] in lignation of Agnese, to whom [illegible] the subject of her uneasiness during [illegible] confirmed her in the idea [illegible] abused her hospitality, and under the guise of innocence had successfully [illegible] her designs upon the heir. She determined to meet craft with craft, and, by using her great influence with her husband, to retard the [illegible] of the lovers, and, while seeming to be only anxious for their welfare; to counteract, and finally to subvert their designs.

[illegible] the lovers naturally formed the [illegible] her objections, she touched slightly [illegible] want of fortune, and inferior rank; [illegible] curtailment of Sir Edward's expenditure [illegible] would become necessary if two families [illegible] income, handsome in [illegible] expense of which was annually [illegible] it on the injury it would be to Edward [illegible] deprived of the advantages of [illegible] education as his brother had enjoyed,—[illegible] necessary to him, since his position [illegible] on his own exertions. She [illegible] she could not comprehend [illegible] and insinuated a doubt of [illegible] how often the pretty face [illegible] which were sufficient for the [illegible] the matured taste of the man [illegible] replied, that it was not probable [illegible] founded on such infirm [illegible] and so [illegible] by esteem, [illegible] satisfactory character, he said that [illegible] was quite satisfied with little [illegible] law, but he acknowledged [illegible] contemplated the necessity of a [illegible] and ended by expressing [illegible] people were in no hurry, [illegible] difficulty of waiting a year [illegible]

[illegible] that Catherine's apprehension [illegible] measure at last, realised, and [illegible] Irwin seemed determined to retard, if [illegible] suppose their union, the antagonism [illegible] was raised, and he could not altogether [illegible] patience in replying to her [illegible] He rejected with indignation [illegible] feeling might change, he [illegible] was large enough for him and [illegible] about the weather [illegible] his father and mother thought [illegible] his father had interest to get him [illegible] appointment which would enable him to [illegible] of his own maintenance, and [illegible] marriage, but he could see no reason [illegible] in submitting Catherine to [illegible] engagement of uncertain duration [illegible]

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fortune, always have large families—how is your father to give you the necessary start? How is he to put you properly forward in the world?—On the [illegible] next ten years the fortunes of your life must depend."

"Ten years! then Frank and Kitty are to wait ten years? Come, mother, that's too bad—why she'll be quite elderly by that time; just think, you are only five and-thirty now, and you have been married these sixteen years. Depend upon it, I shall never get on the better for Kitty fretting herself to fiddlestick! No, no, mother, it won't do; there's no romance in a bride over twenty. If I were Frank, I'd carry her off in a chaise and four, and bring her home a married wife—I declare it would be splendid—I'd be postillion, and I don't think you'd have much chance of overtaking us, unless you swept after us in a whirlwind."

The idea of an elopement, and the exciting adventures by which it could not fail to be accompanied, was so agreeable to Edward that, though it had occurred to him as a jest, he did not fail to suggest it seriously to his brother.

"You may look as grave as you please, Frank," he said, impatiently: "I tell you you my father won't be so frightened to have it settled—the dear old fellow is as fond of Kitty as she deserves—you'd be gone just a couple of days, and I'd undertake to have mother off while you begged pardon: he'd forgive you almost before you could ask him. Mother is splendid for holidays, but you know we sadly want a little household deity to nurse us when we are ill, and put us in good humour when we are cross. Mother could't say anything when it was done, or if she did, it wouldn't so much matter."

"She would never forgive us, Edward," returned Frank, with a grave smile; "and we should feel that we had given her reason for her displeasure. Kitty's heart would break under the weight of such a resentment as my mother can feel, and as my love and yours would not support her under it. It is hard, but we must be patient."

"Then I'll tell you what it is Frank, you'll have plenty of exercise for your patience; you may wait and wait till you are both old and cross. Mother will not give her consent; she'll mock you with your hope, like that scoundrel Pygmalion and his poor sister Dido in Virgil. She has made up her mind—she says you are too young now, she'll find reasons just as good to keep you asunder till she can say you are too old, and ought to be thinking of the other world."

"Kitty would never consent, said Frank, not unimpressed by the boy's representations. The thought was not new to him, the shadow of such a fear had been darkening on his mind for some time.

"Don't ask her!" cried Edward, with animation, "of course, I know as well as you that she wants it, she can help it; but you know she loves you with all her heart—you know that though she teases to be gay, and deceives her poor old aunt and her father, who is always dreaming about some old Greek lovers instead of minding his own dear little girl; yet know that when she thinks no one sees her the tears come welling up into her eyes, and she is grown so thin that I could almost span her waist, which used to be of a proper natural size. I do not doubt that she would be happiest and would be very miserable, but [illegible] to take care of her [illegible] now, and it is your carry her off, and marry her against her will, she can't blame any one but you and me, and I don't think she can be long angry with either of us."

Frank smiled, and loved his brother very dearly, for his vehemence. And when he detailed to Catherine his proposal in all its extravagant [illegible] there was a touch of sadness in the [illegible] with which he related it, and in that with which she listened—a sadness perhaps inseparable from youth as pure as theirs, yet showing that [illegible] of evil was in the heart of each

CHAPTER IX

Sir Edward, observing that his son's habits had become unsettled, and that his old pursuits [illegible] to have lost their interest for him, became anxious that he should employ the time which was to intervene before his marriage in acquiring a more extensive acquaintance with foreign countries, and thus complete his education [illegible] sinking down into the even tenor of a country gentleman's life. Lady Irwin eagerly [illegible] and seconded the proposal; she was [illegible] by the appeals of Frank's anxious looks, and of the importunity of own son. Frank well-nigh employed, interested and amused, his [illegible] the fruit of effervescent youth, might [illegible] would see other women of a very [illegible] from the modest country girl to [illegible] was betrothed, women with glorious [illegible] glance of which must make a man's [illegible] in his veins, and who would not disdain [illegible] and court the handsome and accomplished heir to an English baronetcy, women [illegible] specious talk to sap the grandwork [illegible] principle, and to beguile their victim into a [illegible] delight, after which the [illegible] Kitty would have entirely lost her power [illegible] Failing this, there was ambition, [illegible] thousand allurements to bring out the [illegible] of his nature and render him unfit or [illegible] fulfil his engagement. At all events, [illegible] away—at all events, it was separation; it [illegible] strange, she thought, if in a year or [illegible] months some occasion of mistrust did [illegible] which she could foster into lasting estrangement.

[illegible] of travel was not without attractions [illegible] The irritation excited by his passion, [illegible] obstacles thrown in his way had given [illegible] distaste for his old studies, the vipid [illegible] fashionable world in London was wearisome to him, bodily activity would, he thought, [illegible] his nervous restlessness of mind and [illegible] the feverish excitement under which he laboured. True, he must part from Kitty, but he hoped that his mother might soften to her when he was away, and that when he returned she would be his own forever. Now, the dark shadow [illegible] another seemed to come between them, even when they were alone, so powerfully was each impressed by the consciousness of her unavowed purpose, though even to each other they hardly ventured to breathe the fear, lest, by uttering it they should give it substance.

For one long happy week before he went abroad Frank staid alone at Swallowfield—for one week of glorious sunshine his feet brushed the dew from the grass as he came across the [illegible] Parsonage—for one week of soft summer weather the leaves of the old elm outside the garden gate whispered over his nightly farewell, and then he went, with smiles on his lips, though with tears in his eyes, to be away until another spring and summer were passed, and until the leaves of that other summer were yellow with decay.

Catharine composed herself to wait, and devoted herself with increased earnestness to her various occupations. But though she conscientiously employed her time and indulged in no vain repinings, she could not restrain a feeling of joy when a day was past, at the thought that the term of their separation was by so much shortened. Her prayers seemed always to bring her near to him, and she had his letters, long, frequent, and inexpressibly delightful for the evil hour they bore of a heart turning ever truly to her. Once in the winter there was an interval of sad anxiety—a long three weeks, and no letter; then, at last, a short note, written from a sick bed, but in good spirits, and in the near hope of approaching restoration to health.

Sir Edward and Lady remained in town until the end of the summer, and when they did return their attention was occupied by a succession of visitors. Edward was gone to Rugby, so Catherine was left with little interruption to the enjoyment of her own thoughts, and to her ordinary occupations.

"You don't mean to say, Helen, that that quiet little thing is Frank's fiancee?" said Mrs. Wilton Brook, Sir Edward's fashionable sister, now a well-preserved matron, who, with two full-blown daughters, was on a visit to her brother. "What a sacrifice! A man of his expectations, such a handsome fellow, too; why he might have married any one."

"He is going to marry according to his choice," replied Lady Irwin, dryly.

"Oh! that's well enough for an old man with a broken constitution, a country curate, or something of that sort—but in Frank's position, with such opportunities, it is inexcusable. Really, a man owes something to his family. No one cares less for money than I do, but rank, fashion, beauty, or something, surely, he should require."

"Your brother and your nephews consider Catherine Birkby beautiful, I believe?"

"Beautiful! What? A girl who has no idea of setting herself off—no airs—no manner! Her eyes are certainly not bad, if she had the least idea how to use them; and, I dare say, something might be made of her hair, it looks soft, and it certainly is a pretty color, just the brun-dore which was all the rage last year. Clementia has it almost—her's is a trifle too light, but, when properly brushed and oiled, it has very much the shade, I assure you. Really, Helen, you should give the poor child a hint or two—it is high time something should be done to civilize her."

"I confess I cannot avoid feeling some regret that Frank did not look about him a little before he tied himself down," said Lady Irwin. "Catherine Birkby is just the sort of barley-sugar sweetheart that a boy fancies himself in love with. I would have saved him if I could; but he must buy his experience, like the rest of us."

"His father ought not to have given his consent. I wonder you did not stop it before it came to a deoleration, Helen."

"How could I apprehend the danger? She had been backwards and forwards at the house ever since I married. I never dreamt of any thing more than brotherly regard. However, it is no affair of mine; when Edward grows up I shall do my best to avoid such a catastrophe."

"Edward will make a handsome fellow, Helen. He will make many a heart ache. He will beat Frank out-and-out—he has so much more of the devil in him. I am heartily glad my girls have a dozen years the start of him."

"Edward's good looks will not avail him much. A younger son has little chance of distinguishing himself in this age of gun and calculation."

Mrs. Brook replied by extolling Edward's talents and acquirements. Lady Irwin, pleased to hear her praises even from one whose judgment she despised, incited her to further commendation by affecting to speak slightingly of him. Mrs. Brook was essentially a worldly wise woman, though of a low order of mind, and debased by perpetual striving after petty ends.—She was not without a certain acuteness, which enabled her to discover the assailable points of those characters, the dignity and strength of adroit and unscrupulous natures, [illegible] win, because she saw through and despised her, thought she could listen unmjured to her well-bred toadyism. She never perceived how lowering to the moral feelings, intercourse with persons of Mrs. Wilmot Brook's class must always be—how it helped to maintain in her an extraordinary opinion of her own endowments, and kept her in suicidal ignorance of her true moral state.

Catherine, meanwhile, grew daily more and more conscious of the dislike with which Lady Irwin regarded her, and she consequently became more silent and depressed in that lady's presence. It was a great relief when Edward came home from school, full of his new experience, overflowing with anecdotes of masters and companions, lavish of caresses to his mother, and imperiously affectionate to Kitty. The jealousy which had at one time characterised his love to her had now quite passed away; she was no longer the principal object of his thoughts, and he began to have a perception, that charming as she was, she might be more desirable as a sister than a wife. And now Frank was away Kitty could always listen to his stories; she was never too much engaged to walk or ride with him; she was a better listener than ever, and soon knew the distinctive characters of Brown, Sinclair, and Tomlins, Edward's particular friends, and could talk about them as if she were familiarly acquainted with them herself; while the arguments she employed to modify his indignation against "that bully" Housman, and to qualify his contempt for "Uncle" Bobins, the pawnbroker's son, only gave additional gusto to the conversation by supplying the spice of a little contradiction.

Catherine's altered looks had struck Edward on his first arrival, and it was not long before he discovered that her spirits had lost much of their elasticity, and that in his mother's company she was always depressed and nervous. With unusual self-command, he kept his thoughts to himself, and carried on his observations in silence for several days, when he had ascertained that a coldness and distance in his mother's manner aggravated, if it did not cause this suffering, he resolved at once to appeal to her better nature, and to plead with her for worthier treatment of his brother's affianced wife. Accordingly, he entered her dressing room one morning, and flinging himself on the rug at her feet, laid his head on her lap—an old childish habit of his, which she loved—and stroking her hand, caressingly, said,

"What a charming Christmas party we have, mother? I wish Frank were here."

"Frank is much better where he is," replied Lady Irwin.

"Of course, it's very nice to be at Rome; and if Kitty were with him, I don't suppose he would be in a great hurry to get back. But as it is ——"

"Don't distress yourself Edward; Fank's love will never break his shoulders, or spoil his appetite. Catherine did not give him much trouble, you know."

"No. I don't know what you mean by that, mother. If Kitty loved him with all her heart, as it was just and natural she should, would you have had her tell a lie, and say she didn't care for him?"

"I do not blame her. I say nothing. Your brother's honor's engaged. I only say that he does not appear to suffer much from homesickness."

"I don't think you can tell that, unless you were to see the letters he writes to Kitty. Of course he doesn't let out his feelings to you, or my father; but if he is so happy in Rome, which I don't believe, you can hardly say the same of her. O mother, I do wish you would take pity on her, and comfort her with a few kind words. She will have quite lost her looks before Frank comes back."

"You are very much mistaken, Edward, if you think Catherine's happiness depends at all on me; and as to her fretting, I do not believe she has sufficient depth of feeling to fret for more than half a day about anything or any one. Agnese tells me, that on the very day of Frank's departure she went and took tea with that stupid paralytic old woman who lives at Hopwood."

"Is that the only bit of scandal Agnese has been able to pick up? She'd be much better employed in putting bows into your caps, instead of poking her ugly face into all the poor people's cottages, and prying into the affairs of her betters. What comfort Kitty could have found in going to see that cross old woman, I can't pretend to say. Poor child, what a sorrowful heart she must have had coming all down Hopwood Lane in the gloaming, with no Frank to meet her! I tell you mother, I can see the trouble in her eyes; and take my word for it, three nights out of the seven her pillow is not dry when she goes to sleep."

"What an extraordinary infatuation it is that you labor under about such a matter of fact person as Kitty. If she does look pale sometimes, it can be no wonder when Mr. Birkby keeps her so many hours reading to him. You should appeal to him, not to me. Catherine's feelings are never likely to injure her health."

"Oh, my dear mother, if you did but know her!"—cried Edward, rising on his knees in his eagerness, and looking with earnest entreaty into his mother's face—"if you would but open your heart to her! It would make you so much happier."

"My happiness is beyond her reach, either to diminish or increase," replied Lady Irwin, haughtily. It cut her to the heart to hear her boy pleading for the tender girl whom she hated.

"Only look at her, mother," persisted Edward, undaunted by her coldness. "Where did you ever see a sweeter smile? And as to her hands and feet, they are fifty times smaller and prettier than Clementina's, that Aunt Fanny is always making such a fuss about. Then, for a companion,—who is always sweet-tempered, always at leisure, like Kitty? I'm sorry you have reason to thank her, mother; I don't know what I should have been, if she hadn't taken so much trouble with me. I never heard anyone teach a fellow his duty to his neighbor, as Kitty does, and it's all the better because she does not seem to be teaching at all. Oh, mother! you do not know what you do when you shut her from your heart. She would be a dear daughter to you."

"I had a daughter once," returned Lady Irwin, bitterly, "who might have been what it seems my son will never be."

"Do not be angry, mother. I love you—you know I love you dearly; but, as Kitty says, love opens and does not narrow the heart."

"That is just the sort of speech I should have expected her to make—my [illegible] I should suppose her to entertain. Those who are incapable of profound passion generally seek to hide the shallowness of their feelings by high sounding theories of enthusiasm.

"I wanted to speak to you, mother,—I wanted to entreat you for Kitty's sake to be a little strong and strong minded in opposition. I [illegible] ing [illegible] Lady Irwin smiled nothing. Edward lingered at the door, probably in expectation of a concilatory word or look, but, sick with a heavy heart, he turned on his heel, and went his way.

CHAPTER X.

In spite of his resolution to keep his uneasiness to himself, Edward was too much irritated by the ill success of his interference, to conceal from Catherine all his disquiet, and he told her [illegible] ing her the better from the consciousness of the effort he had made to do it [illegible] and dreading his mother's displeasure [illegible] Fanny's [illegible] sonage until [illegible] a few minutes in the drawing room [illegible] Lady Irwin's manner gave him both [illegible] to remain, he went off to his own room. There he wrote the following letter which he carried to the post next morning.

DEAR BROTHER—I came home last Tuesday week. I dare say you saw the Londoners [illegible] badly at the examination after all. I brought home a prize which pleased mother and delighted dear old Birkby. Father [illegible] say much, but he looked as if he liked it, and [illegible] thing it cost to show Lord Alfred [illegible] found all well at home, going on much as usual, tethered upon some stratum or other [illegible] Dead Sea—I shan't much wonder if [illegible] week. I wish to Heaven he would [illegible] and take me there with him! A pilgrimage would do me a [illegible] good just now. I wish we [illegible] Kitty were married.—What [illegible] reason it would puzzle a much [illegible] head than mine to discover; but of this I am sure, [illegible] mother, I mean—has taken a [illegible] to Kitty—The worst of it is that Kitty knows it, and you may believe that she looks none the better for it. Of course, it's bad enough for her to have [illegible] so long away, and if any one sees her [illegible] puts it upon that, but mother has more to do with it. Aunt Fanny is here with Clem and Ada, all flounces and finery as usual. If it wasn't for father, no one would take any notice of dear Kitty, but he's as true as steel, and mother dares not say a word against her to him. I'm sure he has a notion that there's something wrong, for he pets Kitty like a child—much more than he pets me, which does not please mother. If you had only taken my advice, all the trouble would have been over by this time. You may take my word for it, that if you don't do something yourself, and before long, mother will find some means to break it off yet. You have no idea what a timid, nervous creature Kitty is before me in her presence.

I dare say you find it extremely jolly at Rome; it must be nice to have lots of money and nothing to do. I suppose I'm not likely to have much experience of either of these pleasures. Father asked me the other day if I should like to be a parson. I suppose he was in joke; I took it so. For I only made a wry face. Fancy mother sitting demurely to hear her son deal out divinity! Don't forget dear Kitty, and when you write don't say a word of what I have told you.—Mother always likes to read my letters, and it won't do to make her angry. Do you get any skating? The ice is four inches thick on the pond. Tomlin, a first-rate fellow, who works in my room, is coming down next week, if the frost holds on, we shall have [illegible] fun. Good night, old fellow, I'm so sleepy I can hardly see. I wish you'd send me something about some of the temples—the ruins, I mean. Finch dotes on ruins.

Your affectionate brother,
EDWARD IRWIN

When this letter reached Edward he was recovering from an attack of fever, brought on by the climate, and perhaps by anxiety. He was consequently labouring under severe depression of spirits. His fears had already been excited by a coldness and constraint in the letters he received from his mother, and by the plaintiff tenderness which struggled through the assumed cheerfulness of Catherine's. He had promised his father to travel. He was to visit Greece and parts of Asia, perhaps the penetrate even to the land of joy and desolation—the glorious and wasted Palestine. He had been as yet only three quarters of a year absent, and this was his second illness.—It was evident that the climate in Italy did not agree with him. The image of her he loved pining for him. He saw her paler and thinner, watching with tearful eyes the embers as they fell, and thinking of him so far away, with a heart growing daily fainter, and wearying for the comfort of his cheering voice. He read those parts of his brother letter, which related to her, again and again. To be so clear to the eyes of the boy, it must be bad indeed. He himself, too, was lonely and sorrowful. The sweet communion of thought and feeling to which he had become habituated, was checked, and the deepest emotions of his soul lay, unexpressed, a heavy burden on his spirit. One bond strong, and she was his own forever. He knew his father's indulgence, and that his mother's influence, though great, was not unlimited.

The yearning to England once indulged, became irresistible. Arguments readily presented themselves, not only excusing, but justifying, the apparent disobedience, and the next morning saw him already on his return. Once started, his impatience knew no bounds. No railway, no steamboat, was sufficiently expeditious for him; almost before an answer could have been received to his brother's letter, he arrived in person at his father's door.

Amazement was the first emotion produced by his unlooked for appearance—amazement, quickly succeeded by pleasurable sensations in the breast of his father, by angry consternation in that of Lady Irwin, while Edward could hardly restrain his admiration and satisfaction at a promptitude so much in harmony with his wishes.

The tumult of feeling with which he beheld his son, travel-worn and haggard from recent illness, prevented Sir Edward from remarking the uncontrollable emotion of Lady Irwin. But Frank, whose perception was sharpened by anxiety, read the unspoken anger. His quivering lips hardly touched the cheek she mechanically presented to him; and she felt that if not before, now, at least, he knew the purpose lying in her heart. As by mutual consent, they shrunk from each other's gaze, but each felt the need of concealment. But Lady Irwin was stung almost to madness by the unwelcome joy, with which his brother's return was welcomed by the child for whose aggrandisement she was prepared to jeopardise soul and body.

"Helen, you look pale, love," said Sir Edward, when the first excitement was over, and he had leisure to think of his wife. "This sad freak of Frank's has startled the blood from your cheeks. No wonder, either—the silly fellow to come back without a single word of warning. Bringing such haggard looks, too. Your mother was growing anxious about you, Frank, and had just persuaded me that it would be pleasant to go and have a look at the old place again, when you must needs come blundering back. I am heartily glad we shall see you in Christmas, and Kate. I've a shrewd guess, [illegible] sorry. She is not quite so rosy as she [illegible] little girl, but your absence has told more upon her than on her."

"She'll be all right now," [illegible] Edward, unable to keep [illegible] better in the morning, and [illegible] her a hint. She [illegible] there's no telling what [illegible] you all at once and unexpectedly. She might take you for a painful image [illegible] of a wearied spirit and blood liver."

"I have not heard Clementina [illegible] of illness," said Lady Irwin, [illegible] frighten your brother without reason."

"Yes, yes, Kitty was [illegible] well enough now," said Sir Edward, [illegible] Love tortures, but he seldom kills, if the poor victims only continue of one mind."

"I acknowledge that I [illegible] dream so [illegible] Not that I doubted your [illegible] very dear to me, [illegible] turn with [illegible] health to use my [illegible] agreeably."

"Well, [illegible] it were [illegible] ing you [illegible] later right to be here [illegible] a little [illegible] would be of [illegible] Besides, I had a fancy to [illegible] which your [illegible] have no more [illegible] given have. But [illegible] under [illegible] Italy, with all its [illegible] and associations, distasteful, we [illegible] not, Helen?"

"I assure you [illegible] Lady Irwin. [illegible] may have induced [illegible] objectable [illegible]

"[illegible] the young [illegible] Agnese, as she comes [illegible] warning, and unexpected."

"Helen [illegible] returned Lady Irwin, [illegible] his tantrums gone."

"His [illegible] has made him mad," said Agnese.

"Yes and [illegible] my husband [illegible] My very [illegible] will not leave to me."

"He knows not what he does. She has won him with her [illegible] changed in her manners, but [illegible] Madonna, we are not yet overcome."

"The joy of life is gone," [illegible] Lady Irwin, with hero depression, "it were well [illegible] die."

"Be not [illegible] Madonna, [illegible] our purpose be shaken by the [illegible] witted boy. Rouse your great heart [illegible] it never be said that you have been wronged with impunity."

"Do not tempt me, Agnese. Leave the dark thoughts in my soul, and do not make them more familiar by clothing them in words. I am sick and weary. I am [illegible]—my very child arrays himself against me."

"He knows not the [illegible] at stake; he is still a child. No! [illegible] of mine flows in his veins yet for your sake, Madonna, and for the memory [illegible] days and nights when he lay cradled in my arms, I would count life little to serve him."

"Senseless as you are [illegible] Lady Irwin, with an impatience not unlike that of an untamed horse excited beyond endurance by the application of the spur, "do you talk of what you would do, you who have never been a child—who have only rocked to rest the child of others? Is he not mine—mine in mind and body? The hair that clusters on his brow he had from me; and in which of the tame lowans would you see the flash of such an eye as his? He is the one thing on earth that is mine, and do you think there is anything I would not do for his sake? But were he nothing, I have still sufficient motives. They have treated me with scorn—almost with open defiance. They have aimed from me the affections of my husband. But if I must be miserable, they at least [illegible] rejoice."

"There the signora spoke worthily of herself," cried Agnese, her dark eyes flashing. "Great strong deeds are the language that [illegible] to use to her enemies. The blood within is hot as its sun, that of the north [illegible] winter streams."

"Agnese," replied Lady Irwin, rising and fixing a look upon her that [illegible] quail, so stern—so cruel—it was, [illegible] blood flowing in my veins hot and impetuous as those of the fiercest barbarian of the south. There are tales told of the clansmen of my house which would make even your Italian heart stand still. The sun of ten thousand winters will never cool the blood of the fiery Colt. The days of strong deeds are past, and this puny generation drags the chain its fathers burst. Nevertheless, fear not. I am no unworthy daughter of the Macdonalds."

(CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.)